LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.-26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) A method comprising:

in response to a request to perform an operation on a storage area, wherein

the storage area comprises a plurality of locations:

identifying a first set of locations of the plurality of locations, wherein

each location in the first set of locations meets a criterion to be targeted by the operation;

comparing the first set of locations to a second set of locations; and

performing the operation upon a third set of locations in the storage area.

28. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising:

producing the third set of locations, wherein

each location in the third set is in both the first set of locations and the second set of locations.

29. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein

the second set of locations is specified by an application program.

30. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein

the operation is replication.

31. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising:

obtaining a set of entities, wherein

the first set of locations comprises a plurality of subsets of locations, and

an entity in the set of entities has permission to perform the operation on respective data in at least one of the plurality of subsets of locations.

32. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein

the second set of locations is designated by a requester.

33. (New) The method of claim 32 further comprising:

obtaining a designation of the operation to be performed.

34. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein
the requester manages data in the storage area.

35. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein
the requester performs a management function of a set of management functions for the storage area.

36. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein
the requester identifies a respective physical location in the storage area corresponding to each location of the second set of locations.

37. (New). The method of claim 32 wherein
each location in the second set of locations is specified by
a beginning location and
a number of contiguous locations starting at the beginning location.

38. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein
the second set of locations is designated by a set of indicators, wherein
the set of indicators comprises an indicator for each respective location of the plurality of locations, and
each indicator of the set of indicators indicates whether the respective location for the indicator is included in the second set of locations.

39. (New) The method of claim 32 further comprising:
obtaining a fourth set of locations; and
performing a second operation on the fourth set of locations after the operation is performed on the third set of locations.

40. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein
the second set of locations is designated by the requester; and
the operation and the second operation are designated by the requester.

41. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein
a sieve for the storage area comprises the operation, and

each operation in the sieve is performed on the third set of locations if the sieve is specified.

42. (New) A system comprising:

identifying means for identifying a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in response to a request to perform an operation on a storage area, wherein

the storage area comprises the plurality of locations, and

each location in the first set of locations meets a criterion to be targeted by the operation;

comparing means for comparing the first set of locations to a second set of locations;

performing means for performing the operation upon a third set of locations in the storage area.

43. (New) The system of claim 42 further comprising:

producing means for producing the third set of locations, wherein

each location in the third set is in both the first set of locations and the second set of locations.

44. (New) The system of claim 42 wherein

the second set of locations is designated by a requester.

45. (New) The system of claim 42 further comprising:

obtaining means for obtaining a designation of the operation to be performed.

46. (New) A system comprising:

an identifying module to identify a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in response to a request to perform an operation on a storage area, wherein

the storage area comprises the plurality of locations, and

each location in the first set of locations meets a criterion to be targeted by the operation;

a comparing module to compare the first set of locations to a second set of locations; and

a performing module to perform the operation upon a third set of locations in the storage area.

47. (New) The system of claim 46 further comprising:

a producing module to produce the third set of locations, wherein

each location in the third set is in both the first set of locations and the second set of locations.

48. (New) The system of claim 46 wherein
the second set of locations is designated by a requester.

49. (New) The system of claim 46 further comprising:
an obtaining module to obtain a designation of the operation to be performed.

50. (New) A computer-readable medium comprising:
identifying instructions to identify a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in response to
a request to perform an operation on a storage area, wherein
the storage area comprises the plurality of locations, and
each location in the first set of locations meets a criterion to be targeted by the operation;
comparing instructions to compare the first set of locations to a second set of locations; and
performing instructions to perform the operation upon a third set of locations in the storage area.

51. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 50 further comprising:
producing instructions to produce the third set of locations, wherein
each location in the third set is in both the first set of locations and the second set of locations.

52. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 50 wherein
the second set of locations is designated by a requester.

53. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 50 further comprising:
obtaining instructions to obtain a designation of the operation to be performed.

54. (New) A computer system comprising:
a processor; and
the computer-readable medium of claim 50, wherein
the computer-readable medium is coupled to the processor.